

Appl. No. 09/744,874
Amdt. dated October 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5 and 15, amend claim 1 and add new claims 16-19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A handle extension configured for attaching/retrofitting to a trigger operated fastener-driving hand tool, wherein the handle extension includes:

a shaft ~~adapted so as to be attachable~~ configured for attachment at one end thereof to the hand tool, wherein the shaft is configured for said attachment by way of at least one clamp arrangement having at least two sides which are spaced apart at one end for receiving at least a portion of the hand tool, and connected to each other at an opposite end, such that, in use, a longitudinal axis of said shaft extends in substantially the same direction as that in which the hand tool delivers fasteners;

a hand grip located at ~~the other~~ an opposite end of ~~the said~~ shaft;

a trigger activator positioned near ~~the said~~ hand grip ~~capable of and configured for~~ being operatively connected to a trigger associated with the hand tool, wherein said trigger activator controls ~~the~~ a trigger lever to operate the trigger associated with the hand tool;

~~the~~said hand grip is angled with respect to ~~the~~a longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said shaft to allow the handle to be easily gripped by a person's hand and to have substantially the same position, in use, relative to the user, as a hand grip on the hand tool, such that normal operation of the hand tool is not compromised;

wherein the hand grip includes a second hand grip positioned on ~~the~~said shaft at a point intermediate to ~~the~~said two ends of ~~the~~said shaft, wherein ~~the~~said second hand grip extends radially from ~~the~~said shaft and is positionable about and along the longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said shaft, wherein said hand grip, said trigger activator and said second hand grip are the sole user engagement points of said handle extension.

2. (Previously presented) The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the trigger operated hand tool is motorized.

3. (Previously presented) The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the trigger operated hand tool is a nail gun.

4. (Previously presented) The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the length of the shaft is substantially 50cm to 70cm.

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5.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein said second hand grip includes an integrally formed handle portion and a collar portion.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The handle extension as claimed in claim 1 wherein said two sides of said clamp arrangement are connected so as to be generally "U"-shaped.

17. (New) The handle extension as claimed in claim 1 wherein said clamp arrangement includes at least one releasable fastener which can, in use, be released without the use of tools.

18. (New) The handle extension as claimed in claim 1 wherein said clamp arrangement surrounds a portion of the tool.

19. (New) A handle extension configured for retrofitting to a fastener driving hand tool, said extension comprising:

a shaft configured for attachment at one end thereof to the hand tool by way of at least one clamp arrangement having at least two sides which are spaced apart at one end for receiving a portion of the tool, and connected to one another at the other end, and wherein said two sides are connected so as to be generally "U"-shaped, and wherein said clamp arrangement includes at least one releasable fastener which is releasable without the use of tools, and wherein said clamp arrangement surrounds a portion of the tool, such that, in use, a longitudinal axis of said shaft extends in substantially the same direction as that in which the hand tool drives fasteners;

a hand grip located at an opposite end of said shaft;

a trigger activator positioned near said hand grip and configured for being operatively connected to a trigger associated with the hand tool, wherein said trigger actuator controls a trigger lever on the trigger to operate the trigger associated with the hand tool;

said hand grip is angled with respect to the longitudinal axis of said shaft to allow said hand grip to be easily gripped by a person's hand and to have substantially the same position, in use, relative to the user, as a hand grip on the hand tool, such that normal operation of the hand tool is not compromised; and

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wherein said hand grip includes a second hand grip positioned on said shaft at a point intermediate to said shaft ends, wherein said second hand grip extends radially from said shaft and is positionable about and along the longitudinal axis of said shaft, wherein said hand grip, said trigger activator and said second hand grip are the sole user engagement points of said handle extension.